

5.20.2019

Bucks County Correctional Facility has a legal and moral obligation to ensure it protects the safety and welfare of inmates in custody, especially when a growing amount of those inmates are in jail because they're one of the millions of Americans suffering from opioid dependency.

On Sunday January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Frederick "Freddie" Adami died a preventable death from opiate withdrawal while in custody at Bucks County Correctional Facility.

Freddie was a Dad, Grandpop, Son, Brother, Uncle, Friend, and coworker. He was a man of deep faith and who loved, and was loved by, his family. Freddie's death continues to bring deep pain, tears and grief to our family.

From information we have gathered, while in custody Freddie was very sick and needed medical assistance. Shockingly, there was indifference and disregard for his needs, culminating in his tragic and preventable death. We're looking forward to proving this in court. We recently learned, more than a year after Freddie's death, that Bucks Correctional Facility had erased video from the cell block from the night Freddie died before we or our attorneys had opportunity to see it. Bucks County also claims that another surveillance camera was not working properly and failed to record some video from that evening. We intend to hold Bucks County accountable for their lack of oversight for Freddie's well-being. Our family feels strongly that filing a wrongful death action in Federal court is the most effective way to get Bucks County's attention regarding their role in Freddie's preventable death.

We unfortunately feel compelled to also bring to the public's attention that shortly after Freddie's death two more preventable deaths occurred at Bucks County Correctional Facility, including the death of a young mother going through opiate withdrawal. Our family is taking legal action to prevent needless deaths from continuing at Bucks County Correctional Facility.

Unfortunately, Freddie's disease was treated with indifference and disregard. Addiction is a disease. It's not a choice or a weakness. Chances are very good that someone you love is struggling with addiction and needs and deserves your empathy and support. While Bucks County claims to recognize that opioid addiction is a health crisis, it is failing to treat those suffering from this disease that encounter the criminal justice system.

The days of viewing people addicted to drugs as "junkies" unworthy of sympathy and care are long past. This outdated view cannot be tolerated in those professions which frequently encounter the victims of the opioid crisis, including those who work in jails, prisons, and halfway houses. We can no longer view someone suffering from addiction as a "junkie" rather than a human needing help. Addiction is a treatable disease, but it cannot be treated with indifference and disregard.

The irony of pursuing a legal complaint against Bucks County, a system that exists purely to hold individuals accountable has not fallen lightly on our family. Exposing through our legal action the County's shortcomings in caring for addicted persons in custody is the most effective option to compel Bucks County to take the necessary steps to protect addicted inmates in their system.

In Freddie's Memory,

The Family of Frederick "Freddie" Adami